

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-17 and 25-26 were pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following discussion.

Claim 1-17 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,408,043 to Hu et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,391,199 to Ben-Haim and in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0122787 to Avinash et al.

Applicant indicates the present Application No. 10/816,641 and U.S. Publication No. 2004/0122787 to Avinash et al. were, at the time the invention of Application No. 10/816,641 was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to General Electric Company. In view that U.S. Publication No. 2004/0122787 to Avinash et al. is available as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or (g), then U.S. Publication No. 2004/0122787 to Avinash et al. does not preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP 706.02(1)(2). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 and 25-26 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

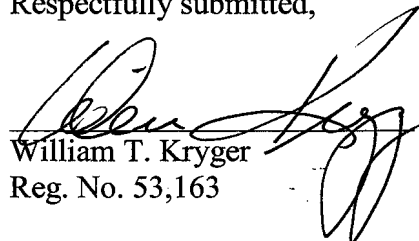
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims in the application is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due with this communication. Yet, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 070845. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 070845.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at telephone number (262) 548-4654 if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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